"His arms went about her, but with sudden strength she strove to break away."



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THE NEW PLAYS

Mrs. Fishe Lost Among Pennsylvania Dutch.

By Charles Darnton.

HERE is, perhaps, something to say for people who cat with their knives. But when they happen to be of Pennsylvania Dutch persuasion and persist in displaying omething more than bad table manners, it cannot be said that they make a play. It was only by sheer force of Mrs. Fiske's brilliant powers that "Erstwhile Susan" stood out at all, at the Gayety Theatre last night, as a play.

To speak of Mrs. Fiske is only to say that she is the finest artists on the American stage. Appreciation of this was forthcoming in the applause that greeted her. Her return to the New York stage was as welcome as an admiring audience could make tt. None the less this tribute was paid to the actress of many notable roles in the past rather than to the creator of Juliet Miller, the electrionary heroine of the play knewn as "Erstwhile

Marian de Forest has falled to make a play of Helen R. Martin's novel, "Barnabetta." The result, so far as the stage is concerned, is a loose and carelessly constructed piece of work turning on the character and life of the Pennsylvania Dutch. The specimens shown may be humorous from a certain point of view, but they are not in the least dramatic. Barnaby Dreary, twice widowed and with two stupid sons, advertises for still another wife. Into this hard household accordingly, comes the erstwhile Susan, an elocutionist from Iowa. It is because of her sympathy for the daughter Barnabetta that she em barks upon the "uplift movement." So much for the play.

Aside from the struggle of Juliet against the clumsy tyrants and her effort to help the little daughter, there is no sort of dramatic interest in the play. There are merely long conversations showing the strange characteristics of these folk. Of drama there is nothing after Juliet has wrenched the whip from the hands of the bullying father.

As a character, Juliet offered many opportunities for Mrs. Fiske to display her brilliant artistry her keen humor and her flashing intelligence. With all her humorous quotations, however, Mrs. Fiske could not convince us that she had a play behind her. Artificiality is all very well in its way, but when it's miles beyond us it becomes hopeless.

As for Mrs. Fiske herself she was delightful. In every subtle, delicate touch that proclaims the artiste she commands the American stage. John Cope was surprisingly good as the Dutch husband, and the other parts were left in conscientious hands.

TO FIND SITE FOR MASQUE.

The Shakespeare Tercentenary Cele big celebration in May at which the Shakespeare Masque by Percy Mackaye Committee to look into the merits of various sites. On this committee are Mrs. Mary Austin, Chairman; Mrs Philip Lydig, Cranston Brenton, Miss Lillian Wald Jules Guerin, Ernest Pel-

Lillian Wald Jules Guerin, Ernest Pel-motto and Augustus Thomas.

The site will have to contain room for 15,000 to 75,000 spectators and about 1,500 players on the stage. It must also he accessible and free for use for several he accessible and free for use to access
weeks at a time.
To the Board of Directors already announced has been added the name of
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